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Attorneys for USACM Liquidating Trust

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

In re:

USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE COMPANY,

USA CAPITAL REALTY ADVISORS, LLC,

USA CAPITAL DIVERSIFIED TRUST DEED FUND, LLC,

USA CAPITAL FIRST TRUST DEED FUND, LLC,

USA SECURITIES, LLC,

Debtors,

Affects:

- All Debtors
- × USA Commercial Mortgage Company
- USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC
- USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC
- USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC
- USA Securities, LLC

Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR

Case No. BK-S-06-10726-LBR

Case No. BK-S-06-10727-LBR

Case No. BK-S-06-10728-LBR

Case No. BK-S-06-10729-LBR

CHAPTER 11

Jointly Administered Under Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR

Judge Linda B. Riegle Presiding

USACM LIQUIDATING TRUST'S MOTION TO CLASSIFY CLAIMS FILED BY PECOS PROFESSIONAL PARK LIMITED PARTNERSHIP IN PLAN CLASS A-7, AND RESERVATION OF COUNTERCLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS

The USACM Liquidating Trust moves this Court for an order determining that the claims of Pecos Professional Park Limited Partnership ("Pecos") (Claim No. 751-1, as amended by No. 752-2), and the disputed claim listed on the USACM Amended Schedules for Pecos (jointly, the "Claim") is included in Class A-7 as a Subordinated Claim under the confirmed Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization ("Plan"), and reserves the right to file counterclaims against Pecos and objections to the Pecos Claim. This objection is explained in the following memorandum and is supported by the Court's record and the declaration of Edward M. Burr filed this date.



I. <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 1. The Court has jurisdiction over this objection, motion and reservation of rights pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(B).
- 2. The statutory predicate for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. §§ 502, 510(c), 1142 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

II. BACKGROUND

- 3. On April 13, 2006 (the "Petition Date"), USACM and other debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. USACM continued to operate its business as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code, under new management by Thomas J. Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC ("Mesirow"), who served as the Chief Restructuring Officer.
- 4. On January 8, 2007, the Court entered an order confirming the Plan [Docket No. 2376].
- 5. Under section I.A. of the Plan, any and all Claims of Non-Debtor Insiders against USACM are "Subordinated Claims." "Non-Debtor Insiders" is defined to mean any Insider that is not a Debtor, and expressly includes, without limitation, the IP Parties, any Affiliate of the Debtors and the IP Parties, and Insiders of the IP Parties. The "IP Parties" are defined to mean Joseph Milanowski, Thomas Hantges, Paul Hamilton, and USA Investment Partners, LLC ("USAIP"). "Insider" includes any partnership in which the person is a general partner, or corporation of which the person is a director, officer, or person in control. Plan § I.A.; 11 U.S.C. §§ 101(31).
- 6. Pursuant to section II.C.1. of the Plan, all payment to holders of Allowed Subordinated Claims is subordinated to the payment in full, plus interest, of all Allowed Penalty Claims, which in turn are subordinated to the payment in full, plus interest, of all Allowed General Unsecured Claims. The Plan explains that no distribution to holders of Allowed Subordinated Claims is anticipated.

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- 7. Pecos leased office space to USACM pursuant to a lease dated July 21, 1999 (the "Lease"). USACM continued to occupy space pursuant to the Lease postpetition.
- 8. Pecos is a limited partnership. According to public records, one of its general partners is USA Development, Inc. and one of its limited partners is Institutional Equity Partners, LLC. Public records show that USA Development, Inc. in turn is controlled by Hantges, as president and secretary, and that Institutional Equity Partners, LLC is managed by USAIP.¹
- 9. Pecos was listed in the USACM Schedules as a party to an executory contract with USACM in the form of a real property lease of office space [Docket 784, Schedule G]. Pecos was also listed as holder of an unsecured claim in the amount of \$166,788.42. [Docket 682, Schedule F]. On March 7, 2007, USACM filed amended Schedules that list Pecos as an unsecured creditor holding a claim in the same amount, but showing its claim as disputed. [Docket 3002]
- 10. The Plan also provided for rejection of most executory contracts, including the Pecos Lease, through not including it in the Schedule of assumed contracts and leases. Plan V.B. Pursuant to Court order, the Lease has been continued with USACM and the USACM Liquidating Trust authorized to use the Leased premises through March 31, 2007 and potentially for an additional month thereafter. Pecos was required to file any Claim arising from the rejection of the Lease by the first business day which was 30 days after service of the notice of entry of the Confirmation Order.
- 11. On November 9, 2006, Pecos filed a proof of claim, which it amended on February 9, 2007, with an amended proof of claim in the amount of \$470,080.98 [Claim Number 752-2]. That amount apparently reflects one year of rental and other payments due under the Pecos Lease, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502(b)(6).

¹ The USACM Liquidating Trust reserves the right to amend and expand this objection after discovery to elicit additional facts.



III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

- 12. Pursuant to section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, any claim for which a proof of claim has been filed will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof of claim, the court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the claim and shall allow the claim except to the extent that the claim is "unenforceable against the debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is contingent or unmatured." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b).
- 13. The USACM Liquidating Trust is entitled to object to proofs of claim under § 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, and this filing is timely under the terms of the Plan and related orders. The USACM Liquidating Trust is also entitled to implement the Plan pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 1142, including by obtaining an order that a particular holder of a claim is a member of a particular class under the Plan.
- 14. A properly filed proof of claim is presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.* (*In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.*), 178 B.R. 222, 226 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996). The ultimate burden of proof as to the validity of a proof of claim "remains at all times upon the claimant." *Lundell v. Anchor Constr. Specialists, Inc.* (*In re Lundell*), 223 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2000).
- 15. Pecos' Claim is a Subordinated Claim, and is properly classified as a member of Class A-7, Subordinated Claims against USACM, under the terms of the Plan. Pecos filed no objection to Plan confirmation, and the Plan is effective and binding.
- 16. The USACM Liquidating Trust reserves all counterclaims against Pecos, and further reserves the right to modify, supplement and/or amend this objection and to raise further objections to the Pecos Claim.

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